

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO

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TAGS: OCON, NATO, MILI

SUBJECT: NADREPS MEETING SEPTEMBER 7, 1976

REF: USNATO 4958, B. USNATO 4606, C. STATE 227590, D. STATE
226688

1. PLEASE PROVIDE FOLLOWING ANSWER TO MR. EBERHARD'S LETTER
(REF A. PARA 6 AND REF B) CONCERNING LENGTH OF CNAD MEET-
INGS.

QUOTE

DEAR HANS:

I AGREE WITH YOU THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER AND DURATION OF
WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HAS A CONSIDERABLE IMPACT ON BOTH
STAFFS AND FUNDING, AND THAT EXCEPT FOR SPECIAL CIRCUM-
STANCES, MEETINGS SHOULD BE HELD IN BRUSSELS.

I WOULD HOPE THAT WORKING GROUP MEETINGS THAT ARE A FORUM

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ONLY FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE COULD BE DISBANDED WHENEVER

IT IS CLEAR THAT PROSPECTS FOR HARMONIZING REQUIREMENTS, REACHING AGREEMENT ON COMMON INTERFACES, OR IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL COOPERATIVE PROJECTS CANNOT BE REALISTICALLY ACHIEVED. WE SHOULD URGE EACH WORKING GROUP THAT IS ESTABLISHED OR CONTINUED TO REMEMBER AND DIRECT THEIR EFFORTS

TOWARD THESE END GOALS. I FEAR THAT A STRICT LIMIT OF 2 DAYS PER MEETING COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TOWARD ACHIEVING THESE GOALS.

IDEALLY, WHEN WE FIND THAT WORKING GROUPS ARE NOT ACCOMPLISHING WORTHWHILE RESULTS THEY WOULD BE DISBANDED OR WE COULD WITHDRAW OUR NATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN SUCH GROUPS. HOWEVER, THE CNAD HAS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO AGREE ON WHICH GROUPS SHOULD BE DISBANDED. FOR SOME OF THE SMALLER NATIONS, EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION IS A SUFFICIENT RATIONALE FOR CONTINUED MEETINGS. THIS FACTOR MAKES ACTION ON OUR PART TO WITHHOLD NATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN WORKING GROUPS MORE DIFFICULT.

IT WAS FOR THESE REASONS I PROPOSED AT THE LAST CNAD THAT THE NUMBER OF WORKING GROUPS BE REDUCED IN NUMBER BY 25 PERCENT. THIS MAY BE THE ONLY PRACTICAL WAY OF FORCING A REDUCTION IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS.

IF SOME WORKING GROUPS MUST CONTINUE AS A FORUM ONLY FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE, I WOULD PREFER THEIR MEETINGS BE LIMITED TO ONE PER YEAR WITH DURATION OF TWO DAYS.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WILL OCCASIONALLY JUSTIFY MEETINGS OUTSIDE OF BRUSSELS--FOR EXAMPLE, MEETINGS HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH OBSERVING TRIALS AND WITNESSING DEMONSTRATIONS. I WOULD EXPECT THAT SUCH SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD ARISE NO MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF THE TIME.

-- MAL
-- SIGNED MALCOM CURRIE UNQUOTE

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2. GUIDANCE CONCERNING TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS (REF A. PARA. 2) WAS FORWARDED IN REF C AND GUIDANCE CONCERNING GROUP OF NATL. DIRS. ON MATERIEL STANDARDIZATION (REF A. PARA 4) WAS FORWARDED IN REF D.
ROBINSON

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